

a junior at UCLA and he was called home to help his family pack their belongings. With thousands of other Japanese-Americans, the Takasugi family was sent to internment camps, first at the Tulare County fairgrounds and then at Gila River, Arizona.

Nao's parents would have lost the Asahi Market his father had owned and operated since 1907 if it hadn't been for an employee, Ignacio Carmona, who offered to run it in their absence. When the family returned, Ignacio handed the keys over and thanked Nao's father for the opportunity to run the business.

Nao's family spent the entire war in an internment camp but Nao was offered an opportunity to continue his studies through a program run by the American Friends Service Committee and the Quakers in Philadelphia. He completed his business degree at Temple University in 1945 and went on to earn his master's from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Then he returned to Oxnard to help run Asahi Market.

In Tom Brokaw's book, *The Greatest Generation*, Nao described the internment camp experience this way: "I find that I am compelled to remember the best—not the worst—of that time. To focus not on the grave deprivation of rights which beset us all, but rather on the countless shining moments of virtue that emerged from the shadows of that dark hour."

Nao's road into politics mirrored my own. When the city denied his plans for a new sign, he decided politics needed a businessman's perspective. He was appointed to the planning commission, ran for city council and won, ran for mayor and won consecutive terms, ran for the California Assembly and was elected to three terms, then was elected to two terms on the Oxnard Harbor Commission.

Nao experienced the best and the worst that America had to offer during often trying times. Many Americans experienced the best America has to offer because of Nao's friendship, compassion and dedication to his country. I will miss him.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in sending our condolences to Judy, their children, and all their family and friends, and in remembering a gentle man who left an indelible mark.

HONORING SHANNON BOAZ OF  
SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Shannon Boaz, wife, mother, sister, daughter, friend and inspiration to all who came in contact with her, who passed away November 21, 2009, after a long battle with leukemia.

Shannon was an extraordinary woman who did not let her terminal diagnosis dampen her fighting spirit. She was first diagnosed with leukemia in June 2008, but by December of that year, the disease had remarkably gone into remission. She immediately began working with the committee in her hometown of Healdsburg, California to organize the annual anti-cancer "Relay for Life," which was held in

June 2009 and was named the Relay's Survivor Honoree.

Fate intervened on the last day of the Relay when her doctors determined that her cancer had returned. During the last four months of her life, much of it spent in the hospital, she continued to work with and comfort other leukemia and cancer patients.

To family and friends, Shannon would often state that she had the perfect life with her husband, Healdsburg Fire Captain Jason Boaz, and their two young sons, Jackson and Austin.

Shannon was born in Los Angeles on November 22, 1970, and moved to Sonoma County when she was five years old. She graduated from Geyserville High School in 1988 and received a degree in Business Administration from California Polytechnic State University in 1993.

Following college, she worked as a flight attendant for United Airlines and was in the air on 9/11, flying from Boise, Idaho to San Francisco. Shannon took a furlough following 9/11 to raise her family and manage the construction of the family home in Healdsburg. She worked as a realtor at Full Spectrum Properties in Healdsburg for the last few years of her life.

Madam Speaker, Shannon Boaz was a respected and well loved member of the Healdsburg community who will be missed by her family and friends. It is therefore appropriate that we remember and honor her today.

HONORING RON EMERZIAN

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ron Emerzian upon being named "Citizen of the Year" by the American Legion, Post 74. Mr. Emerzian was recognized on Wednesday, November 11, 2009, at the 62nd annual Citizen of the Year dinner and Veterans Day observance in Modesto, California.

Mr. Ron Emerzian was born and raised in Modesto, California. Upon graduating from Stanford University, he moved back to his hometown. He went to work for E & J Gallo Winery, where his primary focus was on sales and distribution. He also served as the vice president of sales, vice president of organizational development and vice president of corporate giving and community affairs for the company. After 47 years with E & J Gallo Winery, Mr. Emerzian retired.

Since his retirement, Mr. Emerzian has turned his attention to community involvement. He has served as the chairman of the board for several local non-profits, including California State University, Stanislaus, the United Way, YMCA, Stanislaus Partners in Education, and the Education Foundation of Stanislaus County. Currently, Mr. Emerzian serves as the chairman of the United Way Children's Council and the After-school Coalition of Stanislaus. He serves on the board of Save Mart Cares, Juline's Foundation for Children, and the United Samaritans, which serves 35,000 meals to the hungry every month. He is also a member of the Modesto Rotary. Earlier this year, Mr. Emerzian was named chairman of the board for the Gallo Center for the Arts in Modesto.

Mr. Emerzian has been married to Janice for 44 years. They have two sons, Michael and Matthew. Michael attended Stanford and the University of California, Los Angeles, and is currently a physician living in Sacramento with his wife and their two children. Matthew attended the University of California, Los Angeles for his bachelor's degree and his graduate work. He currently lives in Los Angeles and has recently co-authored a book "Every Monday Matters".

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ron Emerzian upon being named "Citizen of the Year." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Emerzian many years of continued success.

HONORING AND CONGRATULATING  
COLONEL DANIEL L. RUBINI

**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate my friend Colonel Daniel L. Rubini.

Colonel Daniel L. Rubini, or Larry as we all know him, has dedicated his life to the rule of law, traveling across the globe to help struggling nations, often engulfed in devastating conflicts, establish the fundamental elements of a successful democracy. A 40-year Bucks County resident, Colonel Rubini has lent his expertise and commitment to make life better for veterans and military families across our region, always lending a hand when his brothers and sisters of the Armed Forces find themselves in need.

It's been my privilege to work alongside Colonel Rubini as we fought to finally bring a Veterans Cemetery to Bucks County, an honor long overdue for the veterans of southeastern Pennsylvania. He's been the driving force to clean up the unmarked graves at Washington's Crossing Park to make sure that those first American soldiers get the recognition they deserve. I have been proud to partner with Colonel Rubini to help the men and women of Iraq and Afghanistan who have risked their lives to assist the American military as translators. Those brave souls have no greater advocate than Colonel Rubini, who has helped countless men and women find safe haven from those who seek to harm them because they stood up for their country and fought for democracy. No matter what, Colonel Rubini is always there to make sure returning soldiers receive a warm welcome home, as well as a warm meal.

Colonel Rubini will be receiving the William H. Eastburn III Award from the Bucks County Bar Association for his contributions to the Bucks County judicial system. The award goes to someone who has encouraged a greater respect and understanding for the law, and challenged others to take personal responsibility as citizens.

Colonel Rubini has done great things, not just for this Nation, but for countries throughout the world. He has helped to bring the rule of law to places like Kuwait and Haiti, while continuing to fight for justice in Pennsylvania. He's a true veteran's advocate and I'm proud to call him my friend.